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to turn it over to her and let her handle the whole thing. Senator Labedz is well qualified to do so.

PRESIDENT: All right, Senator Labedz, then you will handle the committee amendments so the Chair recognizes Senator Labedz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. The amendments that the committee is offering is the bill. The bill was completely rewritten by the request of the members of the committee and also the people that were involved in setting up this commission. I would try to explain the amendments first. First of all, we have changed the name from the Commission on the Deaf to the Hearing Impaired. This removes the stigma of the word "deaf" and broadens the focus of the commission to include all hearing impaired groups. There are approximately 100,000 people in Nebraska that have some type of hearing impairment. There are 14,000 deaf persons, totally deaf. We are also increasing the membership from six to nine and adjusting the requirements governing the initial appointments and quorums to reflect the membership. It also eliminates the requirement that the commission's executive director must be hearing impaired and section 9 is entirely rewritten to detail the duties of the commission and this was requested by members of the Government Committee. Much of the language was derived from other states that do have a commission on the hearing impaired. Another new section provides specific statutory authority for the commission to contract with other entities of the delivery of services. There are revised versions of sections 11 and 12 in the original bill. They have been amended to conform with the standard statutory language. I move for the adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Murphy. Do you wish to speak to the committee amendments, Senator Murphy? No? All right, Senator Venditte, did you wish to speak to the committee amendments?

SENATOR VENDITTE: Yes, I do, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. Again as I open these bills it seems as though every other bill, the first thing we happen to see is a fiscal note attached to it and, Senator Labedz, it is not often that I will rise this year and support legislation that has a fiscal note whether it is \$8,000, \$10,000, \$100,000, \$200,000 and as I look at this particular piece of legislation we are talking about the handicapped and you know at times during our lifetime there are times we become very handicapped. I guess there are times in our lifetime that we get